

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas Joseph Abell

Serial No. To be assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: Improving Barrier Film Integrity on
Porous Low K Dielectrics by
Application of a Hydrocarbon Plasma
Treatment

This is a Divisional of:

Serial No: 10/328,838

Filed: December 23, 2002

Examiner: Luu, Chuong A.

Art Unit: 2825

Mail stop: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced case on the merits, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the following amendment and to consider the following remark:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert as the first sentence of the specification -- The present patent application is a Divisional of Application No. 10/328,838, filed December 23, 2002.--